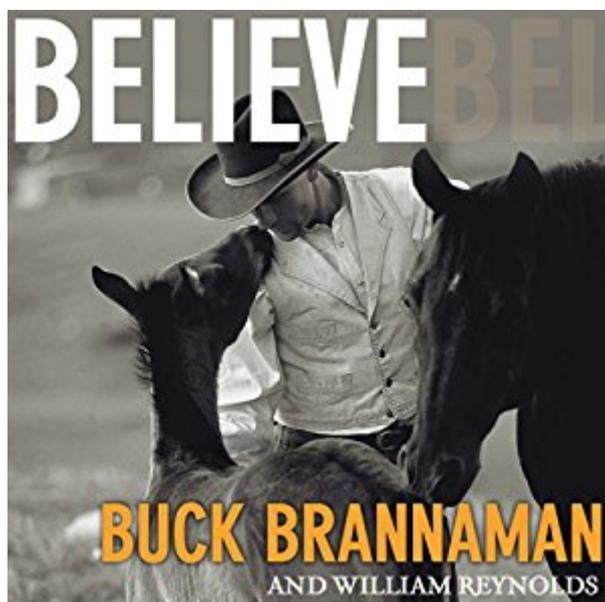


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# Believe: A Horseman's Journey



## Synopsis

From Buck Brannaman, best-selling author of *The Faraway Horses*, *Believe: A Horseman's Journey* continues to chronicle Buck's efforts as a catalyst and mentor through the stories of thirteen people with whom he has worked.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Buck has co-written a wonderful dedication to the healing power in the connection between horses and people. Having attended quite a few of his clinics and visited with him several times, I have seen how dedicated he is to the horse and to helping those people who are truly looking for a better way, not only in their horsemanship, but in their lives as well. Well worth the read. I gave it four stars instead of 5, because *Far away horses* was better....sorry Buck.

Please read my review for Buck's book "*The Faraway Horses*," and read that book before you read "*Believe*." I can't say enough good things about Buck-- his way has truly changed my life. This book has the added dimension of having every other chapter be a true account from individuals whose lives have been changed and affected for the better by learning about Buck's way. Highly recommend.

I really enjoyed reading Buck's first book, *The Faraway Horses* and really liked Buck the movie. I was looking forward to reading this book and thought since each chapter was about overcoming a specific issue he would talk about how to work through those issues. Instead, it was a series of

stories people had written Buck about how great he is and how they helped to changed their lives prefaced by Buck's commentary on the story. There is nothing deep or substantial to the book, just a lot of fluff. Some of the "lessons learned" were repeats from his first book. It's a light read but if you want to borrow it from friend or the library but I wouldn't buy it as I would not read it a second time.

I have seen Buck in person and after seeing many self proclaimed "horse whisperers" knew he was something special. His writing is no different and both his books are not only a must read for people with horses, but anyone who wants a good story.

I haven't read Faraway Horses, but plan to, so this is my first Buck Brannaman book. Buck's warmth and love for horses(and humanity) shine through in this collection of students that tell the story of how Buck, through horses, helped them heal. I believe all of nature can heal of if our hearts are open; some people climb mountains, some people(Wild) go on walkabouts, some rescue dogs, but in the end, we can all heal through animals. I've been trying to figure out why horses are so special, and I think it's because they give us the BIG healing. Anyone with half a brain, and knows nothing about horses should have a healthy dose of fear. As Buck says, the back legs can hurt you, and the front legs can kill you, so you should be cautious. What Buck does, is to help us figure out what a horse is thinking so we can begin to not be afraid. I've learned from this book that horses are a mirror for us, and emotional mirror. They can tell us what we're really all about because they are sensitive enough to feel our hurts and fears rolling off us in what must be waves of emotion to these brilliant animals. As prey, a horse depends on trusting its intuition enough to react instantly. This probably developed because the only horses that survived through the ages, were the ones who could get away from what was trying to eat them, and that was the horses that trusted their intuition. They still do, which is how they deal with people. As Buck says, a horse doesn't care what you are on the outside, only who you are at your core. I'm sure that most people don't have anyone in their life that sees them as they truly are and then accepts them for their actions and nothing else. As I read through these stories, each with a different lesson that a horse had taught them in their lives, I learned the gift that horses are to us. To get a horse to trust you, is no different than taming a grizzly or a tiger, and then get it to let you ride it. Horses can help us overcome our fears. "Buck showed me how fear can undermine everything you do, how foolish it is to be impatient, and how cruel it is to withhold affection and respect." loc. 787 The thing with working with horses is that what you learn can translate to other parts of your life and how you treat other people, most

importantly our children. "It's important when working with horses to make the wrong thing difficult and the right thing easy. . . But be careful not to make the wrong thing completely impossible, because the horse has to have the opportunity to make the mistake in order to learn the lesson." loc. 1232. How can this not apply to children? Especially to day when parents don't want their children to ever get hurt so they protect them at every turn, until the only mistakes the children can make is when they are much older, and the consequences for mistakes much graver. I loved the movie Buck, and the Horse Whisperer, and I plan on someday taking my horse into one of Buck's classes. This man has so much to teach us about how to treat each other, and how to make the world a better place.

...as to how this book should be described. I've watched the video Buck but not read Faraway Horses and it's truly been awhile since I've been on the back of a horse. Are there life lessons in the wisdom Buck and his students pass along? Absolutely! Do those life lessons have practical day to day application? Again, Yes. Is the book well written and well constructed? Not really. Did I enjoy it? Yes and No. Can I recommend it? Not sure either way. If one has a driving interest in Buck Brannaman and his philosophy, I suppose it's a must read. If one has a passing interest in how mankind interacts with animals and the life lessons they can teach us, it's worthy of consideration. BUT, one must be willing to slowly read between the lines and examine what's trying to be presented to truly be able to make this worthwhile. It is NOT a book that will appeal to everyman and many will see it as not worth the effort to read.

I really enjoyed reading Buck's first book, Far Away Horses, so I was looking forward to reading this book. I was surprised to find that this book is just a lot of testimonials from Buck's former students gushing about how he has changed their lives. I was quite surprised that he would put out a book like this. I think he is a great horseman that doesn't need to push his worth by publishing a book filled with praises for himself. Essentially all this book does is pat him on the back. Maybe he wanted to point out how learning to connect with your horse can change a person's attitude, but I came away feeling a bit turned off because of so much gushing.

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